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To: [R6Press](#)
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1 — What Texas learned in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, Texas Tribune, 12/27/17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/12/27/wake-hurricane-harvey-looking-back-what-weve-learned/>

Two Tribune reporters who covered Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath discuss the historic storm's financial impact, recovery efforts and what citizens and state officials have learned in the wake of the devastating storm.

2 — Denka's lawyers argue that St. John residents offer no proof that chloroprene caused harm, Advocate, 12/26/17

http://www.theadvocate.com/new_orleans/news/environment/article_669e071c-ea72-11e7-90c1-9f58f88bf509.html

Lawyers for a chemical company accused of releasing what environmentalists say are "dangerous" amounts of a chemical called chloroprene into the air in St. John the Baptist Parish say that a lawsuit against the company should be dismissed because local residents have failed to show the chemical is harmful. Attorneys for Denka Performance Elastomer made the argument in a legal filing Friday, the first time that the company has responded to the suit brought over the summer by 13 St. John residents who live near the chemical plant.

3 — 327 toxic Superfund sites in climate change, flooding bulls-eyes: AP, 12/26/17

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/327-toxic-superfund-sites-climate-change-flooding-bulls-eyes-ap/>

Anthony Stansbury propped his rusty bike against a live oak tree and cast his fishing line into the rushing waters of Florida's Anclote River. When he bought a house down the street last year, Stansbury says he wasn't told that his slice of paradise had a hidden problem. The neighborhood is adjacent to the Stauffer Chemical Co. Superfund site, a former chemical manufacturing plant that is on the list of the nation's most polluted places. That 130-acre lot on the river's edge is also located in a flood zone.

4 — Why Communities Of Color Are More Vulnerable To Natural Disasters, KERA, 12/26/17

<http://keranews.org/post/why-communities-color-are-more-vulnerable-natural-disasters>

Low-income neighborhoods are more vulnerable to natural disasters, according to the Centers for Disease Control. And those poor neighborhoods are also disproportionately communities of color. In "After The Flood," KERA has followed several people who left their storm-wrecked homes after Hurricane Harvey and decided to start over in North Texas. All of them are black.

5 — A vital port for the nation's oil and gas industry is on its way to becoming an island, LENS, 12/22/17

<http://thelensnola.org/2017/12/22/a-vital-port-for-the-nations-oil-and-gas-industry-is-on-its-way-to-becoming-an-island/>

Henri Boulet, 54, grew up in a family of shrimpers in the southern part of Lafourche Parish, a long, skinny county that starts on Louisiana's Gulf Coast and stretches north about 75 miles. His family lived in a little town called Larose, which was located slightly inland, so the family kept their shrimp boat on a barrier island called Grand Isle. This story was produced in collaboration with weather.com, which examined the effects of climate change in all 50 states.

6 — Passage Of Tax Bill Could Spur Oil And Gas Activity, Houston Public Radio, 12/20/17

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/energy-environment/2017/12/20/258008/passage-of-tax-bill-could-spur-oil-and-gas-activity/>

The GOP's tax bill victory could lead to new oil and gas investments. The industry is celebrating the win, though there is still room for caution in oil markets. The American Petroleum Institute, an industry group, said the measure could "unleash" oil and gas activity.

7 — NEW INVESTIGATION LINKS HOUSTON'S 'FLOOD CZAR' TO HOMES BUILT IN RESERVOIR FLOOD POOLS, Texas Standard, 12/22/17

<http://www.texasstandard.org/stories/categories/energy-environment/>

Thousands of residents living near the Addicks and Barker reservoirs in northwest Houston are still in cleanup mode after their homes were inundated. It was only after the rain stopped falling that many of those homeowners discovered they were living in zones intended to be flooded in order to save downtown Houston from disaster.

Weren't developers required to tell buyers this information? If officials knew these areas were flood pools, why would they permit construction on these sites in the first place?

8 — Fueling dissent: how the oil industry set out to undercut clean air, Guardian, 12/14/17

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/14/fueling-dissent-how-the-oil-industry-set-out-to-undercut-clean-air>

On sunny days, when his classmates run out to play, Gabriel Rosales heads to the school nurse for a dose of Albuterol.

The fine mist opens his airways, relaxing the muscles in his chest. Without it, recess could leave the nine-year-old gasping for breath. He gets a second dose at the end of the day before heading home from St John Bosco Elementary School, in San Antonio, Texas.

9 — Powered by trash: See how Baton Rouge engineers are using garbage to fuel industry, Baton Rouge Advocate, 12/23/17

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/environment/article_56e7b3d4-deb2-11e7-a73c-efdb02ce87f9.html

Engineers are turning the Capital City's trash into fuel that helps power petrochemical plants along the Mississippi River which make the raw materials used to produce all kinds of goods, from plastic containers to car parts. But first, the garbage needs time to ferment. After five years at the parish landfill, garbage starts giving off combustible gases that are being captured and sold to the plants. As the trash heap grows ever higher, the city-parish is preparing to install more pumps to extract methane gas bubbling underneath the mammoth pile.

10 — Nutrient proposal advances, at issue is curbs on phosphorus, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 12/26/17

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/dec/26/nutrient-proposal-advances-20171226/>

The first proposed outline to trade nutrients through a watershed has been approved to take to Arkansas' pollution control board nearly three years after the state Legislature voted to allow the proposals. Four Northwest Arkansas cities -- Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers and Springdale -- proposed the program, which could be used by wastewater treatment plants in the nutrient-beleaguered area to lessen the restrictions on the amount of phosphorus that they discharge into the water, all while another facility in the same watershed has its restrictions tightened.

11 — Tourism in coal country: Digging into culture, ecotourism, Houston Chron, 12/26/17

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/article/Tourism-in-coal-country-Digging-into-culture-12455595.php>

Two-thirds of Appalachia's coal industry jobs have disappeared since the 1990s. Now the region is hoping tourism will help rebuild its economy by tapping into history and its rugged natural beauty.

12 Attorneys slash claims in Colorado mine spill, Kaplan Herald, 12/26/17

<https://kaplanherald.com/2017/12/26/attorneys-slash-claims-in-colorado-mine-spill/>

Economic damage from a Colorado mine waste spill caused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may be far less than originally feared after attorneys drastically reduced some of the larger claims, The Associated Press has learned. Farmers, business owners, residents and others initially said they suffered a staggering \$1.2 billion in lost income, property damage and personal injuries from the 2015 spill at the Gold King Mine, which tainted rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

13 Development continues at Oklahoma Superfund site, ABC 7, 12/26/17

<http://www.kswi.com/story/37140870/development-continues-at-oklahoma-superfund-site>

As the Environmental Protection Agency considers whether a site contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals is one of the nation's worst, development continues unabated behind it and a large land sale has occurred across the street.

The stark contrast between contamination and nearby construction has jolted nearby residents and concerned citizens, prompting inquiries to city offices. Midwest City has largely deferred to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, which has frustrated at least one city councilman, The Oklahoman reported.

14 Tax that pays for oil spill cleanup trust fund expires on Dec. 31, Times Picayune, 12/21/17

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/12/oil_spill_trust_fund_tax_expir.html#incart_river_index

The 9 cents per barrel tax on oil that funds the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, used by the U.S. Coast Guard to pay for cleanups after accidents like the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, expires on Dec. 31, and there are no plans to ask Congress to restore it. At the end of November, the trust fund contained \$5.8 billion, said Allen Thuring, a senior financial analyst with the Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center, which oversees the trust fund. And that should be enough to handle oil spill emergencies for the foreseeable future, he said.